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USDA FOREST SERVICE

Ready, Set, Revision!

Forest Plan Revision News for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Working Collaboratively to Create a Vision

The Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team concluded the first set of Community Collaborative Workshops in early July. The objective of the workshops was to work together to develop a vision for the future management of the Blue Mountains national forests. Following a brief open house where the team shared information about current resource conditions and trends, Team Leader Dave Schmitt presented background information about the revision process.

Participants were then engaged in a visioning activity to gather information about what people care about, what they want their forests to look like, what they expect the Forests to provide, and what conditions they want to exist on the forests. This information was collected on worksheets from over 300 people in the ten communities the team visited. People also provided responses using the website and by letter and phone call. Notes from all ten workshops are posted on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision website.

Each of the 1,421 responses we collected was recorded in a database in July. They were grouped based on social, ecological, and economic content in relation to the sustainability framework that the team will be using throughout the revision process. The sustainability framework approach focuses on the linkages between these three systems to increase understanding of sustainability and make better decisions for the future.

The team will synthesize the information in the database into one draft vision for the future management of the national forests of the Blue Mountains that will be composed of desired condition statements. The consolidated vision will be presented and discussed at the second round of Community Collaborative Workshops beginning in October. *(See page 4 for a summary of what we heard)*

Round One Workshops

- 10 Communities
- Over 300 Participants
- Over 1,420 Comments



Dayton, Washington June 16, 2004. Workshop participants complete visioning activity worksheets.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How similar will the three Forest Plans be? Are all three plans going to be identical? What if one forest identifies conditions different from other areas? Will these Forest Plans provide for consistency in guidelines, methods, and rules across the three forests?

A: Having consistent management across the three forests is one of the reasons we are revising all three plans under the same effort. There may be some slight differences in the final plans, but we expect the three plans will be 80-90% similar.

Q: Is the vision going to be the same across the three forests?

A: We plan to have one vision that addresses the entire Blue Mountains. It is likely we will also develop visions for specific areas, depending on the information provided by the public.

Q: How current or how old is the data you will be using? Is it new since the last plans? Will the data be peer reviewed?

A: We have been collecting data for a long time and there are various levels of "current." The Forest Service and other agencies and groups have collected a large amount of data since the current plans were developed. We will be using the best available data. Our Pacific Northwest Region and Research Station are working together to determine where we need scientific review and how to accomplish that.

Q: Will there be a review of the interim directions such as PACFISH (Interim Strategies for Managing Anadromous Fish-producing Watersheds in eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho, and portions of California – 1995), INFISH (Inland Native Fish Strategy – 1995), and the Eastside Screens?

A: PACFISH, INFISH, and the Eastside Screens will be reviewed as we revise the Forest Plans and the appropriate parts will be incorporated into the new Forest Plan direction.

Q: Will the three components of sustainability (social, economic, and ecological) all have the same weight?

A: Yes, the Forest Plans will attempt to achieve a balance between the three components of sustainability.

Q: How much input will people outside of the area have in the process?

A: The Revision Team wants to work with everyone who is interested in the forest plan revision and who will be affected by it. We anticipate hearing from many people both within and outside the planning area. Each and every viewpoint will receive equal consideration regardless of where it comes from or how many times it is expressed.

Q: How is this collaborative process different than consensus?

A: Consensus implies that everyone agrees; we would like that, but don't expect it will happen. We will work together (collaboratively) to get as close as we can to consensus.

Q: How will the decisions be made regarding issues that never have consensus? What criteria will be used? Will they be based on the majority opinion?

A: They will not be based on majority opinion. We will sit down and look at the information we have. The Revision Team's job is to present the information and pros and cons to the Forest Supervisors, who will make the decision based in part on what is sustainable.

What is the Current Management Situation Report?

One of the first steps in revising a Forest Plan is to complete a Current Management Situation Report (CMS). This report, which will be available in October, outlines the Blue Mountains forest plan revision effort including:

- An overview of general current direction for managing national forest lands
- An overview of the current Forest Plan management direction
- A summary of the major changes in resource conditions
- Highlights of some of the initial needs for changing the current Forest Plans

The CMS summarizes information about the conditions of the land and peoples' uses and values associated with it. This provides the foundation for developing a proposal for future management of the forests. The CMS will help us identify where and why we think there is a need to change the current plans. It paints a picture of the current social, ecological, and economic setting and helps define the decision space.





Blue Mountains Community Collaborative Workshops

Round Two of the Blue Mountains Community Collaborative Workshops begins in October. This set of workshops will include:

- An overview of current resource conditions and trends on the three forests.
- Review and discussion of the consolidated draft vision that participants created in the Round One workshops.
- Discussion of aspects of resource management in the current Forest Plans that needs to change.

Community/Date	Location
Burns, OR October 13 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Harney County Senior & Community Services Center 17 S. Alder Street
John Day, OR October 14 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Malheur National Forest, Supervisor's Office 431 Patterson Bridge Road
Enterprise, OR October 19 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Wallowa County Fairgrounds Cloverleaf Hall 600 N.W. First Street
La Grande, OR October 20 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Eastern Oregon University Hoke Hall, Room 309 One University Boulevard
Baker City, OR October 21 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Baker County Fairgrounds Extension Building #2 2610 Grove Street
Dayton, WA October 26 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Columbia County Fairgrounds Youth Building 105 Columbia County Fair
Pendleton, OR October 27 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Convention Center 1601 Westgate
Heppner, OR October 28 6:00-9:00 p.m.	St. Patrick's Senior Center 182 N. Main Street
Pasco, WA November 3 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Franklin County Public Utilities District Office 1411 W. Clark Street
Portland, OR November 4 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Doubletree Portland – Lloyd Center 1000 N.E. Multnomah Street

We hope you can join us at one of these workshops! For more information, contact Tami Paulsen, Public Affairs Specialist, at 541-523-1332 or Dave Schmitt, Team Leader, at 541-523-1248. Please visit the revision website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/ for up-to-date information about any changes to this schedule.



Introducing Martha Bean, Facilitator Extraordinaire

Revising the Forest Plans is a complex task that is best done by working together collaboratively with everyone who is interested in the future management of the area. This is hard work, and the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team recognized the need for some expert assistance in designing and implementing the collaborative process. That is why we decided to contact the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, which is a separate federal agency from the Forest Service, to provide neutral facilitation services for the forest plan revision effort. This agency maintains a roster of experts in facilitation and mediation for projects such as the Blue Mountains forest plan revision.

Through the Institute we have contracted with Martha Bean of Collaborative Focus, who is working in partnership with Lois Schwennessen of Schwennessen and Associates. Martha, who is our primary facilitator, works with public, private and non-profit clients throughout the Northwest and the nation providing strategic assessment, collaboration, and mediation services. With a background in environmental planning and forest management, Martha has been invaluable in the process so far. She will be working with the Revision Team and communities throughout the Community Collaborative Workshop series taking us through the development of the Revised Forest Plans next fall.

As part of Martha's contract, she has prepared a report that assesses the strengths and opportunities, as well as the barriers and challenges facing those participating in the Blue Mountains forest plan revision process. This report is based on background research, interviews, and the facilitators' experiences at the ten community workshops we have held so far. To review this report, visit the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution website at www.ecr.gov.

Creating a Vision *(continued from Page 1)*

Some of the preliminary themes that emerged from the workshops included:

Many people want the Blue Mountains as a place where they can recreate with their friends and family and to provide future generations a sense of tradition:

- "More designated wilderness", "no more wilderness", "all areas that are suitable for 'wilderness' and some that aren't are already designated as such"
- "More restricted road access, close and restore old roads", "roads for access to recreation", "stop removing existing roads", "motorized use on designated routes only", "expand motorized recreation opportunities"

Many people look to the Blue Mountains as a place of renewal, for their sanctuary, for solitude, rejuvenation of the spirit, peace of mind, and quiet:

- "Solitude can't exist when loud noise and pollution prevail on our public lands."
- "I use my snowmobile to get out away from it all."

Others expressed the desire to know that the forest is there for its own worth or its intrinsic value:

- "Some areas should remain untouched by humans or at least only lightly used."

Many people expressed a sense of urgency and crises about the condition of the forest, grasslands, and watersheds:

- "My backyard is a catastrophe waiting to happen."
- I fear "losing my natural resource."

People stated support for multiple use, sustainable use, and ecological sustainability:

- "Provide the quantity and complexity of riparian and terrestrial habitats to restore and maintain historical (pre-colonial) levels of native wildlife (and plants)."
- "Maintenance of these (timber) stands should provide wood products and for the health of the forest."

Many comments focused on the need to protect and restore various habitat types:

- "Increase deer and elk populations" for hunting.
- "Protection of endangered species" and "recovery of fish species" that are a major native part of the ecosystem.

Many people support sustainable use of the land to provide timber products and grazing for the nation as well as to support local communities in the Blue Mountains:

- "Keep the infrastructure available to use as a tool for management."
- "Income for county, healthy forest" by emphasizing restoration type jobs.

Many people also view their recreational activities as a positive economic impact on local communities:

- Recreation "draws people to the area and vitalizes the economy."
- "Rural working culture has local and national importance to nation's culture and history."

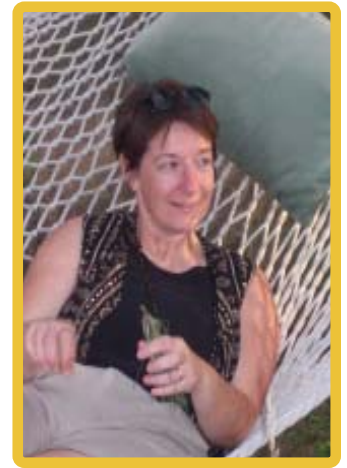
We would like to thank all those who attended the Round One Workshops and hope to see you again in October and November!

Meet Trish - "The Recreation Gal"

If you participated in any of the June and July Community Collaborative Workshops, you might have heard Trish Callaghan introduced as the "Recreation Gal". In truth, Trish's areas of expertise for the forest plan revision include a whole lot more than recreation. Trish is also responsible for addressing scenery management; roadless areas; wilderness; wild, scenic, and recreation rivers; access and travel management; roads; trails; special uses; cultural resources; and facilities. That's a big workload, but with over 20 years of experience, she is up to the task.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management and Outdoor Recreation from Oregon State University, Trish spent 17 years working for the Forest Service in Oregon, followed by 3 years working in Arizona. Trish is happy to get back to Oregon and has been part of the Revision Team for a year now.

Trish loves the outdoors, especially hiking, skiing, and sky diving. She and her husband, along with their yellow lab Jack, enjoy weekend trips that get them out to explore new areas along the back roads close to home. Her career highlights include many great work experiences with volunteer groups. Last year the Arizona Trail Association recognized her support of their efforts.



Why Should You Participate?

We want to work with everyone who is interested in the Revised Forest Plans and who will be affected by them. We began working on revising the Forest Plans about a year ago and plan to complete the process in the fall of 2007.

If you are interested in how the Blue Mountains national forests are managed day-to-day, then engaging in the revision process is an excellent opportunity to make a difference. We encourage everyone who cares about the national forests to work with us to develop the Forest Plans. Working together means sharing information and communicating openly during the process while considering the legal requirements that the Forest Service must follow.

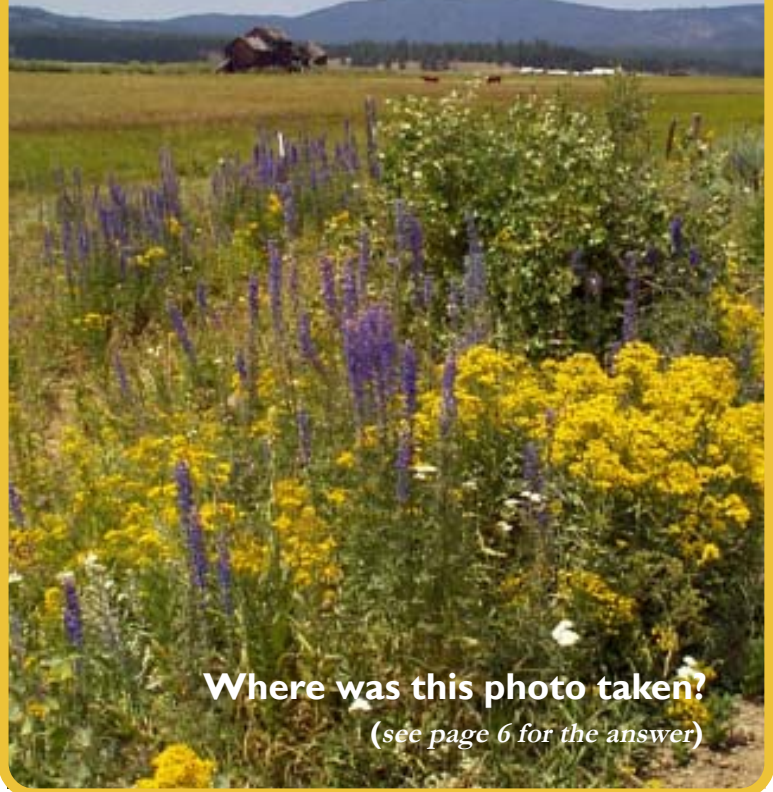


Thank You

for responding to our request for help

updating our Forest Plan revision mailing list. All of the changes have been made, and we will keep the list updated. If you need to submit further address changes or wish to be added to or removed from the mailing list, please drop us a note at blue_mtn_planrevision@fs.fed.us or call Tami Paulsen at 541-523-1332.

Daytripping in the Blues...



Where was this photo taken?

(see page 6 for the answer)



**Look
Inside...**

**for the
Blue Mountains
Community
Collaborative
Workshop schedule**

**Round Two
Workshops
begin in October**

**We hope to see you
there!**

How to Contact Us:

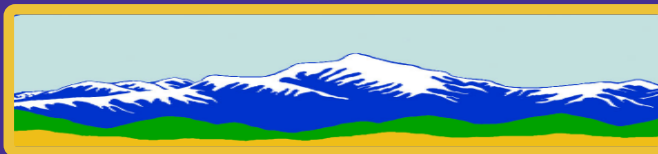
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Spreading the word: Feel free to post this newsletter.
We also encourage anyone to link to our website to provide our
Forest Plan Revision information to your website users.



The photo on Page 5 is near the town of Whitney, Oregon on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.



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